



State of Wisconsin  
Jim Doyle, Governor

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**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

May 2, 2003

To: School District Administrators

From: Patricia Kandziora  
School IPM Program Manager  
Chemist/Acting Pesticide Registration Coordinator  
608-224-4547

Subject: Pesticide storage at schools.

There are no specific types of cabinets required for pesticide storage. There are numerous styles of chemical storage cabinets available that are designed for safe, secure chemical storage, spill containment and response. A school is not restricted to a specific cabinet style. What is important, and required by state regulations, is the way in which pesticide products are managed. The following rules, found in Chapter s. ATCP 29.40, Wisconsin Administrative Code, describe these performance standards.

Storage

Pesticides must be:

- Secured against access by children, the general public, domestic animals and wild animals. At schools, a locked cabinet in a locked room is recommended. No precautionary signs are required to be posted on the storage cabinet or room.
- Stored in ways that avoid reasonably foreseeable and preventable hazards to persons, property and the environment. Keep pesticide containers closed unless adding or removing their contents. Avoid storing pesticides in temperature extremes. Purchase the amount expected to be used in a reasonable period of time so containers are less likely to degrade and leak.
- Separated from food, feed and other products so that they will not contaminate or be mistaken for those products.

Spills

The potential for spills should be reasonably anticipated and preventive measures taken to keep containers from becoming damaged or labels becoming illegible. Contain and remove spill residues from the storage area and decontaminate the area promptly following discovery of a spill. Broken, defective or improperly sealed containers must be properly disposed, unless they are enclosed in another suitable container which effectively prevents foreseeable spill incidents. (Contact Roger Springman, at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer protection Clean Sweep program at 608-224-4545, for assistance with pesticide disposal.)

Other practices to help schools avoid pesticide storage problems

- Set pesticide containers on inexpensive, easy-to-clean pans or trays to contain spills. While not required, if you choose to use a commercially manufactured chemical storage cabinet, they are designed to contain spills. Most can be fitted with ductwork to vent vapors out of the building.
- Maintain a current list of pesticides that are in inventory. It is a practical way to avoid buying excessive amounts, keep track of use rates and in case there is an accident involving the pesticides, records will show how much and what is missing.
- Consider the storage environment: do not store chemicals where vapors can be drawn into the ventilation system and spread throughout the building.

For assistance on pesticide regulations and management procedures, please feel free to contact me.

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